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For Immediate Release

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Disaster Unemployment Assistance Expanded to 3 More Vermont Counties

Montpelier, VT ó The Vermont Department of Labor is pleased to announce that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved an Individual Assistance Declaration for three additional counties: Franklin, Lamoille and Orleans Counties.

The filing deadline for individuals for individuals in these 3 counties to determine eligibility is **October 21, 2011**. The covered disaster assistance period begins **August 27, 2011** and ends **March 3, 2012**. The first payable week will be the week ending **September 3, 2011**. An individual must be continuously unemployed as a direct result of the disaster in order to continue to receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance. If eligible, he or she can collect benefits for the weeks during which they meet the necessary criteria. Individuals who experience temporary job loss as a result of the disaster and who do not qualify for State Unemployment Insurance Benefits, such as self-employed individuals, may also be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

Vermont received approval for DUA in 9 other counties earlier this month, and the deadline for filing in those counties is October 7, 2011.

An individual may qualify to receive Disaster Unemployment Assistance if:

- You were injured in the disaster and are unable to work, whether you are an employee or selfemployed.
- Your workplace was damaged, destroyed, or you cannot work because of the disaster.
- Your transportation to work is not available.
- You cannot get to your job because you must travel through the impacted area where means of transportation are not available.
- You were about to begin working, but could not because of the disaster.
- You derived most of you income from areas affected by the disaster, and your business is down as a direct result of the disaster.

Please call the Vermont Department of Laborøs Claim Assistance Line at 1-877-214-3330 if you are an unemployed worker or self-employed individual who lived, worked, or was scheduled to work in a county that has been declared a disaster area by the federal government to determine you eligibility for Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

For more information, please visit www.labor.vermont.gov.

